

Friends of Rhyddings Park

Minutes of the AGM – 26th November 2008

Chair's report

Neil gave a report of previous year's activity – below is an abridged version.

The Parks for People lottery bid hit a stumbling block this year and was resubmitted as an agreed late submission. We are hoping to have the results of this submission possibly in March 2009. Due to all the problems with waiting so long for the bid to rectify urgent problems in the park I called a meeting with HBC. Gayle and I attended this and HBC agreed to put a capital expenditure program in place over the next few years to address the major problems. The paths should be first on the list. We all agreed that we won't sit and wait for the parks for People bid and that the Friends will start looking for funding to carry out some much needed work in the park.

We held a very successful music event this year – we estimate that we had over 1000 people in the park that day and are hoping for more next year.

We were successful in a funding bid from Bid Lottery and BBC Breathing spaces for our Bird Box project which is about to start very soon and will bring school children into the park working with an artist. I think it is wonderful that we are getting these children involved in this unique educational experience.

This year saw the launch of our website which we are intending to keep up-to-date with what we are working on and meetings etc. This is in addition to our notice board at the Rhyddings Street entrance that contains similar information.

We have been very busy in Pets corner with goats coming and going and have had success breeding rabbits, chickens and pheasants. We still need more volunteers to help out and I recently reached an agreement with the Parks Department that will make it easier for volunteers to access the equipment needed to work with the animals.

Other funding we were successful in securing this year is for a 2010 calendar, repairs to our notice board, the spring bulbs we planted, signage for pets corner showing the animals and a little about them – these will be installed.

Following Neil's Chair's report, a discussion ensued about the CCTV in the park. The post has been put in over a year ago but the camera has still not been fixed. Neil to remind Peter Britcliffe to ask Bill Huntley whether the post and mounting will be Victorian style?

Cllr Peter Britcliffe thanked the committee on behalf of the council for all the hard work that the committee has put in over the last year.

Accounts

Hazel gave a summary of accounts – audited version will be available asap.

Committee

The existing committee were all re-elected en bloc. It was also agreed that the core committee should co-opt a member of the bowlers plus a representative from the local youth service.

Constitution

Neil outlined some minor amendments to the constitution – all agreed. Details are available on line if required.

AGM business concluded and we proceeded with a regular meeting.

Pets corner

4 female rabbits have been donated from pet warehouse.

There were reports of issues with rodents but Phil has not seen any.

Bulb planting

A bulb planting session went ahead, thanks to St Pauls Cub's and parents for their help.

Police issues

There have been reports about youths leaving rubbish around but Inspector has brought more police into Oswaldtwistle lately and over the last 5 to 6 weeks things have improved.

Tree – at the top of Rhyddings St

We have heard that some people want this tree removing – as a group we voted that we want the tree to remain.

Funding bid for a MUGA

Sites have been discussed and there are no objections to using the old bowling green for a MUGA site. The funding bid is to be submitted before 9th Jan.

Calendar 2009

Using some of the remaining funding from the Orchestral Manoeuvres event (with Awards For All's permission) we have produced a calendar for 2009. Available from Neil, Gayle or Hazel.

Calendar 2010

We have received some funding to run a project throughout 2009 which will culminate in a calendar for 2010. This will involve workshops and activities throughout the year.

Pets corner signage

We received some funding from Oswaldtwistle Area Council to put some signs into the pets corner. Thanks to John Farrer for helping the committee by writing the text. Signs have been produced and will be installed asap.

Goat Shed

We need a new goat shed so we are going to go to local companies to see if they will sponsor one. (Note: subsequent to the meeting, Oswaldtwistle Mills offered the proceeds from a charity raffle to the group).

Events for 2009

Hyndburn Borough Council will fund a band day in the park – May 3rd is the date selected.

Maintenance

A list of work needed doing has been compiled and submitted to the caretaker. Benches have already been removed for refurbishment over winter.

Date and time of next meeting –

Thursday 12th February

7.00pm at Hippings Vale Community Centre